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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
St. Louis 2, Missouri

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NEWSLETTER TOPICS

REA ALLOTMENTS EXCEED HALF BILLION

More than a half-billion dollars has been allotted by REA for loans to 875 borrowers since the inception of the federal rural electrification program in 1935. Allotments announced on July 1, with the beginning of the new fiscal year, raised the grand total to \$500,102,301.79. Of this amount, \$33,795,000 was allotted for the year ended June 30, 1944, as compared with \$8,225,000 for the year which ended in 1943.

Up to May 31, 1944, borrowers had withdrawn from this allotted fund more than \$385 million in long-term loans. REA-financed systems were operating 395,000 miles of power line serving 1,128,774 consumers as of the end of April. Since the War Production Board inaugurated its program of permitting wartime service connections early in 1943, authorization has been given for extension of service to approximately 125,000 rural establishments throughout the country. The majority of these connections have been approved on the basis of the value of electricity as a means of increasing farm production or saving labor.

Of the total loaned by REA as of May 31, nearly \$355 million was earmarked for construction of distribution lines. The remainder includes \$13 million for generating facilities in areas lacking adequate sources of power at reasonable rates, \$11 million for transmission lines, and \$6 million to be re-loaned to individual consumers for wiring, plumbing and appliance installations.

Congress authorized \$25 million for REA loan purposes during the year which began July 1, 1944.

HAY DRYING EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

At the request of the War Food Administration, the War Production Board has allocated materials for making electrical hay drying installations this year. Farmers desiring to purchase the equipment must apply for a priority at their county AAA office.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the results of tests showing that barn-cured hay is consistently one to two grades better than that cured in the fields. Practically all the leaves and a greater part of the green color are saved by curing in the barn. Hay cut after the dew is off in the morning can be moved to the barn in four hours.

The installation required for barn-curing of hay crops consists of a wooden duct system built on the floor of the hay mow, through which air is forced by a large fan operated by an electric motor. A motor of 2 horsepower and up may be used to operate the fan during the 8 to 16 days -- depending on depth of the hay in the barn -- required for complete drying. A farmer who already has a motor big enough for his hay mow can save at least one-third of the cost of the installation.

Many farmers interviewed in the course of the Department of Agriculture survey said that their drier paid for itself the first year, in reduced losses and in the much higher feed value of barn-cured hay as compared with field-cured hay. It will pay to barn-cure any hay crop which requires longer than one day to dry in the field. Even a heavy dew causes alfalfa and soybean hay, both of which ordinarily must be left in the fields overnight, to lose leaves and color.

PRESERVE FOOD AT HOME

Electrical appliances will aid many women in the big job of preserving extra quantities of food this year. The extra amounts are important, too, because every pound saved for future use at home means that much less demand on the commercial pack, a large portion of which must be set aside for military needs.

Ranges and hotplates are appreciated during canning season because their controlled heat gets a lot of work done and still doesn't overheat the kitchen. Electric refrigerators also come in handy, especially if food is to be preserved a little at a time and the housewife wants to wait a few hours before processing it. Vegetables picked in the morning before the sun wilts them can easily be saved in prime condition for processing later in the day.

One of the biggest advantages of home canning or dehydration is the fact that vegetables can be harvested and processed right when they're at their flavorful best. If you like your stringbeans young and tender, you can have 'em that way. If left in the garden too long, most vegetables become large and coarse and also lose much of their flavor.

COOLING PROTECTS EGG QUALITY

Eggs which would otherwise deteriorate and rapidly lose quality during hot summer weather can be kept in good condition for market by the use of an electrically-operated egg cooler. Cooled eggs consistently grade higher, and the cost of cooling is slight.

REA plans for construction of a cooler are available at our office. The device, which can be built quickly and cheaply, operates with a household electric fan. Cooling is accomplished by circulation of moist air around the eggs, the air current from the fan being directed through moist wicking or other material. The eggs are contained in baskets, cases, pails or cans with perforated bottoms, or other containers that permit free movement of air.

NEW PRICE CEILINGS ON USED MOTORS

In order to encourage the rebuilding and sale of second-hand electric motors, OPA has established a new method for pricing motors of 3/4 horsepower or less. Retail prices for rebuilt motors are calculated on the basis of 75% of the list price of the nearest equivalent new motor, plus \$7. In accepting trade-in motors, the seller must make an exchange allowance of not less than \$1 for motors 1/4 h.p. or less, \$2 for those over 1/4 h.p. and including 1/2 h.p., and \$3 for those over 1/2 and including 3/4 h.p.

A "rebuilt and guaranteed" motor is defined as having all necessary defective or worn parts replaced or repaired, with a written guarantee of successful operation for one year. All other second-hand motors have a ceiling of 75% of the list price of new motors.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

(Note to newsletter editors: The Top O' Michigan Rural Electric Company, Boyne City, Mich., is using an effective method of obtaining a large number of personalized news items for publication each month. This co-op merely provides two lines at the bottom of the meter card for news contributions. Items thus received are brief but interesting -- and they bring to this newsletter a wealth of members' names each month. Several variations of this method offer interesting possibilities, including solicitation of comments on "appliance most appreciated during month" or "how my electricity helped save labor this month.")

On the March 20 billing, we collected \$32.81 penalties on bills which were not paid until after April 1. This represents a lot of unused energy. Applying our regular farm home rate, \$32.81 will do the following things:

Shell 8,160 bushels of corn
Grind 122,400 pounds of feed
Milk 24,480 cows
Churn 163,200 pounds of butter

Separate 2,448,000 pounds of milk
Pump 1,224,000 gallons of water
Brood 3,200 chicks for 6 weeks

Why not pay your bill before the last day of the month and let this unburned power produce more food?

(From newsletter of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Chillicothe, Mo.)

We want to call attention to a number of outages that we had recently where the guy wire extends into the pasture or is accessible to livestock. Since the warm weather and the flies are with us these animals often will rub or lean on these guy wires, and consequently the secondaries will slap together and blow your fuse, which means an outage and an extra trouble trip for us. This condition can be remedied either by wrapping some barbed wire around the guy wire or by setting one or two posts near the base so as to keep livestock away. (From newsletter of Red River Valley Co-op Power Association, Halstad, Minn.)
